IMMIGRATION TO ALBERTA

(OVERVIEW FROM 1981 TO 1985)

Alberta

MANPOWER
SETTLEMENT SERVICES
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ALBERTA IMMIGRATION HIGHLIGHTS

Overview of Numbers

According to the 1981 census, 365,000 (16.5%) of the 2.2 million Alberta residents were born outside Canada. The proportion of first-generation immigrants was even higher in Edmonton (19.8%) and Calgary (21.3%).

Since 1981, approximately 68,000 new immigrants have arrived in Alberta. Peak years were 1981 and 1982 with average arrivals of over 18,500 per year. This levelled off to about 10,500 arrivals per year in 1983 and 1984, and to an estimated 9,000 in 1985.

Projections

Immigration levels are projected to go up again in the next few years:
1986: 11,500 new arrivals in Alberta (including 1,800 refugees)
1987: 12,500 new arrivals in Alberta (including 2,000 refugees).

This is part of federal projections of overall immigration levels to Canada:
1986: 105,000 to 115,000 (including 16,000 refugees)
1987: 115,000 to 125,000 (including 18,000 refugees).

Alberta, with 9% of the population of Canada, will receive 10% of all immigrants, including 12% of all refugees.

Origin of Immigrants

Immigration from Europe decreased from over 42% in 1981 and 1982 to 24% in 1983, and to 19% in 1984.

Immigration from Asia increased from 36% in 1981 and 1982 to 50% in 1983, and to 57% in 1984.

Knowledge of English

The percentage of immigrants arriving in Alberta without any knowledge of English has increased from 40% in 1982 to 53% in 1983, and to 61.4% in 1984. Among refugees in recent years, approximately 85% had no knowledge of English prior to arrival. In addition, many immigrants listed in immigration statistics as knowing English need further English instruction before being able to function in the job market.

Educational Background

Levels of education among all immigrants have not shown any significant differences in the past five years' statistics. Approximately 10% of all immigrants had university degrees, 14% had no formal education. The majority of the remaining 76% had less than secondary education. Number of years in school, however, tell only part of the story. Education and vocational training in cultures different from Canada may not be transferrable in practice to equivalency levels in Alberta.

Refugees

Over 13,000 refugees were among the 68,000 arrivals to Alberta in the five years from 1981 to 1985. The percentage of refugees among immigrants to Alberta in recent years has generally been about 20% (low of 14.2% in 1981, high of 29% in 1985). Based on recent trends and on federal refugee allocations, we can expect the following distribution of refugees in 1986:

400 to 500 from Southeast Asia
400 to 500 from Eastern Europe
400 to 500 from Latin America
400 to 500 from other world areas, principally from Africa and the Middle East.

These are new refugees, not including immigrants joining families already in Alberta.

Family Class and Assisted Relatives

While overall immigration to Alberta showed a drastic decrease since 1982, the number of immigrants joining relatives already here has remained at well over 6,000 per year from 1980 to 1984. 1985 estimates are a little over 5,000 for this group of immigrants. Many of them are relatives of earlier refugees from Southeast Asia and Latin America.

Independent Immigrants (Excluding Assisted Relatives)

Until 1982, slightly over one-third of all immigrants to Alberta were in the independent category of people selected under the point system of admission to Canada. These are people expected to be immediately employable and self-supporting, requiring no - or only minimal - settlement assistance. Changes in federal admission criteria in 1982 resulted in a decrease in independents from 35.8% in 1982 to 13.4% in 1983.

Entrepreneurs and Self-Employed Immigrants

As a percentage of overall immigration, this group has always been under 5%. Numbers (including family members) dropped from over 500 per year in 1981, 1982 and 1983 to 398 in 1984, and to an estimated low of 228 in 1985.

First Destination in Alberta

Over the past five years, 42.2% of all immigrants have settled in Calgary, 39.6% in Edmonton. Others have gone to Lethbridge (2.2%), Red Deer (1.9%), Fort McMurray (1.3%), Medicine Hat (1.1%), other Alberta communities (11.7%).

Immigration to Canada Over the Past Century

Annual Immigration Averages Compared to Total Population

Period	Total population at end of decade	Percentage of foreign-born	Annual average immigration	Comments
1881 - 1891	4,833,000	13%	90,300	The peak immigration year was 1883 with 133,623 arrivals many of them settling along the new railway in Saskatchewan and Alberta.
1891 - 1901	5,371,000	13%	32,600	
1901 - 1911	7,207,000	22%	175,900	Large groups of Eastern Europeans settle as farmers in the Prairies.
1911 - 1921	8,788,000	22%	161,200	The record year was 1913 with 400,870 immigrants. Little immigration during World War One from 1914 to 1918.
1921 - 1931	10,377,000	22%	120,300	
1931 - 1941	11,507,000	22%	15,000	The Depression years.
1941 - 1951	14,009,000*	18%	54,800	World War Two. Immigration picked up again in 1948 with 125,414 arrivals.
1951 - 1961	18,238,000	15%	154,300	Southern and Eastern European groups.
1961 - 1971	21,568,000	16%	142,900	
1971 - 1981	24,083,000	16%	144,700	South-East Asian and Latin-American groups.

* Newfoundland with a population of 361,416 became part of Canada in this period.

Immigration to Alberta by Immigration Categories

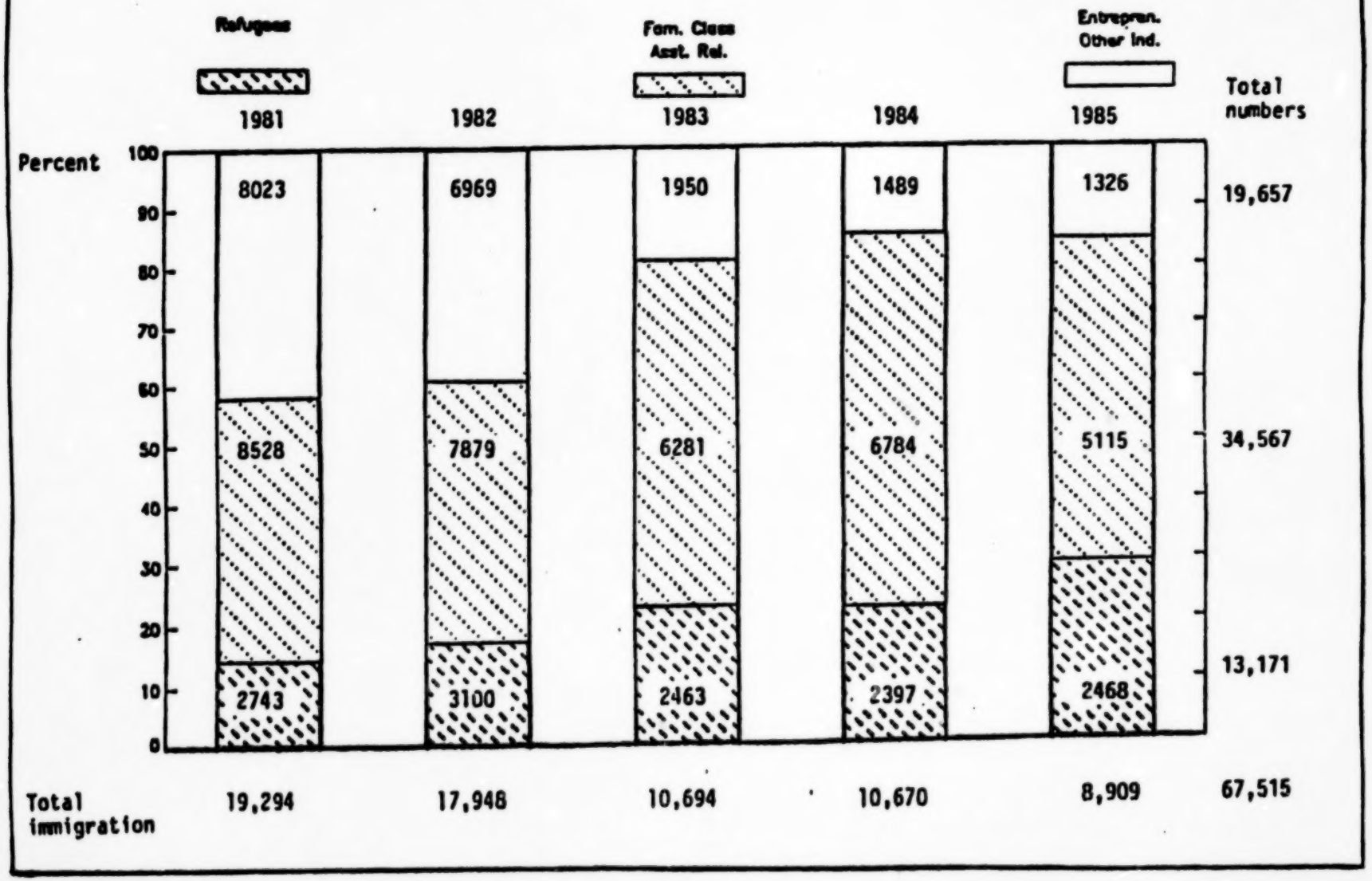
CATEGORY	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	Total
Refugee & Designated	2,743 14.2%	3,100 17.3%	2,463 23.0%	2,397 22.5%	2,468 27.7%	13,171 19.5%
Family	6,184 32.1%	6,195 34.5%	5,602 52.4%	5,409 50.6%	4,128 46.3%	27,518 40.7%
Assisted Relatives	2,344 12.1%	1,684 9.4%	679 6.3%	1,375 12.9%	987 11.1%	7,069 10.5%
Entrepreneurs & Self-Employed	510 2.6%	535 3.0%	519 4.8%	398 3.7%	239* 2.7%	2,201 3.3%
Other Independents	7,513 38.9%	6,434 35.8%	1,431 13.4%	1,091 10.3%	1,087** 12.2%	17,556 26.0%
TOTALS	19,294 100%	17,948 100%	10,694 100%	10,670 100%	8,909 100%	67,515 100%

* This figure includes 48 entrepreneurs and 22 self-employed principal applicants plus 169 family members.

** This figure includes family members of independent immigrants and 104 retired persons.

IMMIGRATION TO ALBERTA BY IMMIGRATION GROUPINGS

April 1986



Source IMM 1000 data, Canada Employment and Immigration

Immigration to Alberta by Continent of Origin 1980 - 1984

CONTINENT	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	Total
Europe	6,273 33.3%	8,219 42.6%	7,682 42.8%	2,609 24.4%	2,017 18.9%	26,800 34.6%
Africa	678 3.6%	810 4.2%	717 4.0%	898 8.4%	896 8.4%	3,999 51%
United States	1,470 7.8%	1,679 8.7%	1,435 8.0%	877 8.2%	822 7.7%	6,283 8.1%
Central and South America	980 5.2%	1,155 5.9%	1,203 6.7%	1,090 10.2%	1,020 9.5%	5,425 7.0%
Asia	9,043 48.0%	6,965 36.1%	6,444 35.9%	5,027 47.0%	5,423 53.7%	33,202 42.9%
Australia and South Pacific	395 2.1%	502 2.6%	467 2.6%	193 1.8%	182 1.7%	1,739 2.3%
TOTALS	18,839 100%	19,294 100%	17,948 100%	10,694 100%	10,670 100%	77,448 100%

Immigrants Over Age 15 Listed as Knowing English on Arrival in Alberta in 1984

(by continent of origin, immigration category and previous education levels)

CONTINENT OF ORIGIN	Europe	Africa	Asia and Mid East	North and Central America	South America	Caribbean	Australasia and Oceanea
	869	303	1,481	706	133	187	179
	51%	75%	29%	70%	60%	94%	86%

IMMIGRATION CATEGORY	Refugees and Designated class	Family Class	Assisted Relatives	Entrepreneurs, and Self-employed	Other Independent Immigrants
	296	2,373	196	193	775
	17%	50%	19%	41%	88%

EDUCATION BACKGROUND	No formal Education	Secondary School or less	Some Post-Secondary	Trade or other Certificate	Equivalent to Bachelor Degree	Equivalent to Master or PhD Degree
	36	1,726	450	839	515	267
	6%	35%	77%	49%	79%	94%

Totals: Over age 15 with English = 3,833 (44%)
Over age 15 no English = 4,907 (56%)

Note: The functional English ability of those listed as knowing English ranges from minimal to fluent

Immigration to Major Communities in Alberta Between 1981 - 1985

COMMUNITY	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	Total
Calgary	8,374 43.4%	7,700 42.9%	4,363 40.8%	4,521 42.4%	3,625 40.7%	28,583 42.3%
Edmonton	7,312 37.9%	7,161 39.9%	4,502 42.1%	4,265 40.0%	3,670 41.2%	26,910 39.9%
Fort McMurray	252 1.3%	179 1.0%	117 1.1%	117 1.1%	91 1.0%	756 1.1%
Lethbridge	424 2.2%	359 2.0%	246 2.3%	255 2.4%	248 2.8%	1,532 2.3%
Medicine Hat	212 1.1%	144 0.8%	106 1.0%	160 1.5%	155 1.7%	777 1.1%
Red Deer	342 1.8%	305 1.7%	235 2.2%	245 2.3%	231 2.6%	1,358 2.0%
Other	2,378 12.3%	2,100 11.7%	1,125 10.5%	1,107 10.3%	889* 10.0%	7,599 11.3%
TOTALS	19,294 100%	17,948 100%	10,694 100%	10,670 100%	8,909 100%	67,515 100%

* This figure includes 66 to Grande Prairie, 59 to Camrose, 20 to Ponoka, 19 to Drumheller, 14 to Three Hills, 12 to Slave Lake, 12 to Wetaskiwin, 11 to Lacombe. Twenty-five other Alberta communities received between one and 10 new arrivals in 1985.